

Healthy Homes:



Healthy

CHILDREN

Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning, Asthma, and Unintentional Injuries in the Home

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City of Milwaukee Health Department

The Legacy of Lead in Wisconsin: A Compelling New Report

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, (DHS), recently announced the release of a new report entitled "The Legacy of Lead: Report on Childhood Lead Poisoning in Wisconsin 2008." Developed by the DHS-Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, the new report includes critical facts about lead poisoning, the scope of the problem here in Wisconsin, and how we can effectively focus our interventions on the highest risk housing to help protect children.

Childhood lead poisoning affects more than 2,000 children each year in Wisconsin. Studies on the effects of childhood lead poisoning have repeatedly found that

- Lead interferes with the normal development of a child's brain and can result in lower IQ, learning disabilities, and behavior problems such as aggression and hyperactivity.
- Childhood lead poisoning is a powerful predictor of school disciplinary problems, juvenile delinquency and adult criminality.
- Even with low lead exposure (blood lead levels below 10mcg/dL), children are at greater risk of a shortened lifespan due to heart disease or stroke as an adult.

The Legacy of Lead: Report on Childhood Lead Poisoning in Wisconsin 2008 is an informative document designed to draw increased attention to the problem

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National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week to be Observed October 19-25, 2008

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week will be observed across the country from October 19th–25th, 2008. While the long-term goal of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the City of Milwaukee Health Department is to eliminate childhood lead poisoning by the year 2010, the goals of National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week are to:

- Educate the public and raise awareness about this serious health issue;
- Emphasize the importance of blood-lead testing in children under the age of 6, with testing preferably occurring by 1 to 2 years of age;
- Highlight existing childhood lead poisoning prevention partnership efforts and establish new efforts within local communities; and
- Urge people to take steps to reduce their possible exposure to lead.

In observance of Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) will be offering "Lead Facts for Families" educational programs at Milwaukee Public Library locations throughout the city. Classes begin on October 20th and continue through November 25th. MHD Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program community partner organizations will be celebrating Lead Poisoning Prevention Week through the following special events:

Sixteenth Street Community Health Center will be holding a **Harvest Fest** at the South Side Parents Against Lead Gar-

den on 24th and Mineral Streets. The Fest will include lead-free, hands-on gardening and nutrition education from 10am – Noon followed by a year-end garden party for the public and area community leaders from 1-4pm. The Hmong American Friendship Association will be holding a **Community Lead Awareness Health Fair** for the public from 10am–2pm on October 18th at its 3824 W. Vliet Street facility. The Dominican Center for Women will be conducting a **Day-Care Lead Fest** on October 25th from 10am–2pm at A-Plus Learning

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Published by the City of Milwaukee Health Department, the Milwaukee **Healthy Homes: Healthy Children** features in-depth information, data and reports of interest to the medical community from the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, Asthma and Unintentional Injury Programs.

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Think Health 
CITY OF *Act Now!*
MILWAUKEE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Hand-Held Blood Lead Analyzers...The Need to Report

Efforts over the past year by both State and Local public health agencies to promote the use of hand-held blood lead analyzers in the clinic setting are yielding positive results. The portable, hand-held blood-lead testing technology offered through devices such as the Lead Care 2 is gaining in popularity, and rightfully so. The availability of immediate test results through on-site capillary blood-lead collection provides an effective means for eliminating previous long-standing barriers to the lead-testing of children and provides immediate feedback to families. It further promotes increased adherence to current lead-testing recommendations and federal Medicaid requirements.

However, the convenience afforded by the emergence of portable blood-lead testing does not eliminate the State requirement for timely reporting of blood-lead test results to public health authorities. Blood-lead test results are typically reported back to the respective clinic of origin and to appropriate public health officials by a contracted lab service. Since hand-held technology eliminates the need for outside lab analysis, it also eliminates the built-in provision for public health reporting services previously provided through the contracted lab. As such, the required reporting of all "hand-held generated" blood-lead test results, whether normal or elevated, becomes the responsibility of the respective physician or clinic using the device. A recent assessment of reporting activity to the City of Milwaukee Health Department's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program indicated a lapse in results reporting primarily among a few clinic locations where hand-held blood-lead analyzers are being used.

Based on the potential impact of an elevated blood-lead test result on the health of a child and the critical importance of timely follow-up, it is imperative that all representatives of the medical community be fully apprised of and compliant with current Wisconsin Statutes and State Division of Health and Family Services Rules

as they apply to Blood-Lead Test Results Reporting. The current Wisconsin State Statute 254.13 was passed in 1994. It remains in force and requires that:

- 1) Every physician who diagnoses lead poisoning or lead exposure, or any nurse, hospital administrator, director of a clinical laboratory, or local health officer who has verified information of the existence of any person found or suspected to have lead poisoning or lead exposure, shall report to the department or the local health officer of the region in which the person resides within 48 hours after verifying this information.
- 2) A person who screens a child under 6 years of age for lead poisoning or lead exposure under this subchapter, or any rule promulgated under this subchapter, shall report the results of the screening to the department within the time period for reporting by rule.

In March 2000, then Department of Health and Family Services (DFHS) Director Joseph Lekan officially signed and adopted Wisconsin DFHS Rule-HFS 181 addressing the required reporting of blood-lead test results. HFS 181 applies to all blood-lead testing procedures, including the use of a hand-held device providing "real-time" test results as approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1997, and all other portable devices in development. These rules were sent out to healthcare providers state-wide in July 2001.

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Legacy (from page 1)

of lead, its cost to the community, and the critical need to effectively address it. This compelling new report can be downloaded or read on-line at <http://dhs.wi.gov/lead>. Printed copies are also available through the Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 608-266-5817. ■

Wisconsin State Statute 254.13 and DFHS Rule - HFS 181 can be referenced on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website at www.DHS.Wisconsin.gov/lead. Once on the site, click on Lead Poisoning Information in the left navigation bar and then scroll down the page to Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Rules.

Blood-lead test results should be reported in a timely fashion as follows:

Blood-Lead Level	Report Time
45mcg/dL and higher	24 hours
10mcg/dL – 44mcg/dL	48 hours
0 – 9 mcg/dL	30 days

Related questions can be directed to the City of Milwaukee Health Department Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 225-5323 or the Wisconsin DHS-Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at (608)-266-5817. ■

Prevention Week (from page 1)

Center Inc. 2919 W. Fond du Lac Avenue. Family lead-awareness including the importance of lead-testing and adoption of lead-safe practices by parents and caregivers will be the theme of the day. The Sherman Park Community Association in collaboration with the Mary Ryan Boys and Girls Club will be providing **lead education and lead-friendly nutrition workshops for parents** on October 23rd from Noon–2pm at the Club's facility at 3000 N. Sherman Blvd.

A complete listing of city-wide "Lead Facts for Families" education classes is included as a tear-off on page 3 of this newsletter. Please take the time to share this information with patients, clients, colleagues, and the general public. ■

*Join us as the City of Milwaukee Health Department presents
Lead Facts for Families at the following Neighborhood Library locations:*

**Milwaukee Public Library addresses
for Lead Education Classes**

Atkinson Library
1960 W. Atkinson Ave.

King Library
310 W. Locust St.

Bay View Library
2566 S. Kinnickinnic Ave.

Mill Road Library
6431 N. 76th St.

Capitol Drive Library
3969 N. 74th St.

Tippecanoe Library
3912 S. Howell Ave.

Center Street Library
2727 W. Fond du Lac Ave.

Villard Avenue Library
3310 W. Villard Ave.

Central Library
814 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Washington Park Library
2121 N. Sherman Blvd.

East Library
1910 E. North Ave.

Zablocki Library
3501 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Forest Home Library
1432 W. Forest Home Ave.

Get important information about:

- Who gets lead poisoned
- The effects of lead poisoning
- The importance of lead testing
- Common sources of lead in the home
- Ways to reduce lead hazards in the home
- How to make lead-safe home improvements
- FREE funding for window lead hazard abatement

**For more information, call
(414) 286-0387**

**Leroy Leadless says
"Your Best Protection
is Early Detection!"**



Day	Date	Time	Library
Mon	Oct. 20	11:00 am – Noon	Zablocki
Mon	Oct. 20	1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Tippecanoe
Tue	Oct. 21	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	King
Wed	Oct. 22	5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Capitol Drive
Thu	Oct. 23	11:00 am – Noon	Mill Road
Thu	Oct. 23	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	East
Fri	Oct. 24	11:00 am – Noon	Washington Park
Fri	Oct. 24	3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Forest Home
Sat	Oct. 25	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Villard Avenue
Mon	Oct. 27	11:00 am – Noon	Capitol Drive
Mon	Oct. 27	2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Atkinson
Tue	Oct. 28	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Zablocki
Wed	Oct. 29	5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Villard Avenue
Thu	Oct. 30	10:30 am – 11:30 am	East
Thu	Oct. 30	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Mill Road
Fri	Oct. 31	11:00 am – Noon	Bay View
Sat	Nov. 1	10:30 am – 11:30 am	Center Street
Sat	Nov. 1	12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Capitol Drive
Mon	Nov. 3	3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Bay View
Tue	Nov. 4	2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Central
Wed	Nov. 5	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Washington Park
Thu	Nov. 6	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Forest Home
Fri	Nov. 7	9:00 am – 10:00 am	Central
Fri	Nov. 7	11:00 am – Noon	Atkinson
Fri	Nov. 7	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Villard Avenue
Sat	Nov. 8	9:00 am – 10:00 am	Central
Sat	Nov. 8	10:30 am – 11:30 am	Bay View
Sat	Nov. 8	12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Atkinson
Mon	Nov. 10	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Washington Park
Mon	Nov. 10	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	East
Tue	Nov. 11	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Center Street
Tue	Nov. 11	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Atkinson
Wed	Nov. 12	5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	King
Fri	Nov. 14	11:00 am – Noon	King
Fri	Nov. 14	12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Tippecanoe
Sat	Nov. 15	10:30 am – 11:30 am	Zablocki
Sat	Nov. 15	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Forest Home
Mon	Nov. 17	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Capitol Drive
Mon	Nov. 17	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Center Street
Wed	Nov. 19	11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Center Street
Wed	Nov. 19	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Mill Road
Fri	Nov. 21	11:00 am – Noon	Forest Home
Sat	Nov. 22	10:00 am – 11:00 am	King
Sat	Nov. 22	11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Washington Park
Mon	Nov. 24	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Central
Tue	Nov. 25	2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Zablocki
Tue	Nov. 25	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Bay View

HOME ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

- City of Milwaukee Health Department** www.milwaukee.gov/health
General Information: Lead Poisoning Prevention Hotline (414) 225-LEAD [225-5323]
- Fight Asthma Milwaukee Allies** www.famallies.org
Community-based coalition of agencies fighting asthma (414) 765-9355
- State Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS)** www.dhfs.wi.gov/lead
Adult Lead Exposure and Reporting (608) 266-0197
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** www.epa.gov
National Lead Information Center Hotline 1-800-424-5323
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** www.cdc.gov
*Standards for Health Risk, Screening Recommendations, Asthma,
Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and Injury Information* (414) 639-3311
- National Center for Healthy Housing** (410) 992-0712
- Environmental Health Watch** www.ehw.org

The City of Milwaukee Health Department in its capacity as an employer and service provider does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, color, gender, national origin, arrest or conviction record, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, political belief or affiliation, or military participation. Persons needing disability assistance information, language assistance, or interpreter services please call 414-286-3524 or (TTY) 414-286-2025. Discrimination claims may be filed with the Department's Equal Opportunity Coordinator by calling 414-286-2359.



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